

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string the method comprising the steps of:  
generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;  
generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications indicative of successful recognition of the corresponding candidate character;  
~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~  
selecting a plurality of first and second character types;  
~~creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;~~  
for each ~~the second~~ selected character type, creating a ~~second~~ candidate string by concatenating [[a]] candidate character ~~characters~~ with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the ~~second~~ selected character type from each result set;  
~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~  
~~removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;~~  
for ~~the first and second~~ each created and remaining candidate ~~strings~~ string, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the first candidate string created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] the second selected character type of the second candidate string, extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] the first selected different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the corresponding created second candidate string.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer instruction code for performing a method of character recognition to accurately construct a result string, the method comprising:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications indicative of successful recognition of the corresponding candidate character;

~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~

selecting a plurality of first and second character types;

~~creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;~~

for each the second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating [[a]] candidate character characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;

~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~

removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;  
for the first and second each created and remaining candidate strings string, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the first candidate string created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.

8. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.

9. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

10. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] the second selected character type of the second candidate string, extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] the first selected different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

11. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

12. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the corresponding created second candidate string.

13. (currently amended) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;  
generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;  
~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~  
selecting a plurality of first and second character types;  
~~creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;~~  
for each the second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating [[a]] candidate character characters of the second selected character type from each result set;

~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~

~~removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;~~

~~for the first and second each created and remaining candidate string strings,~~ combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

~~selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the second candidate string created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.~~

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
~~the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.~~

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of: if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] ~~the second selected character type of the second candidate string,~~ extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] ~~the first selected~~

different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the corresponding created second candidate string.

19. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
the combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

20. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
the corresponding combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

21. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein:

each confidence indication is numeric; and

the corresponding combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

22. (new) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;

selecting a plurality of character types;

for a first selected character type, creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set;

for a second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;

if there is no candidate character for the first candidate string in a result set for the first selected character type, extracting a substitute candidate character of the second selected character type;

concatenating the substitute candidate character with candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set to thereby form the first candidate string;

ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character;

for the first and second candidate strings, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the substitute candidate character corresponds to a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type for the result set.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein:

each confidence indication is numeric; and

the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication has a greatest combined value.

25. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the first selected character includes a plurality of subset character types.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the first selected character type further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types.

27. (new) A computer readable medium having computer instruction code for performing a method of character recognition to accurately construct a result string, the method comprising:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;

selecting a plurality of character types;

for a first selected character type, creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set;

for a second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;

if there is no candidate character for the first candidate string in a result set for the first selected character type, extracting a substitute candidate character of the second selected character type;

concatenating the substitute candidate character with candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set to thereby form the first candidate string;

ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character;

for the first and second candidate strings, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication.

28. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the substitute candidate character corresponds to a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type for the result set.

29. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein:  
each confidence indication is numeric; and  
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication has a greatest combined value.

30. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the first selected character includes a plurality of subset character types.

31. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the first selected character type further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types.

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